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# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

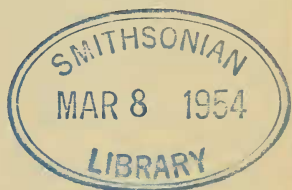
**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 3, Part 16. Pp. 207—216

## OPINION 197

Suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768 (Class Graptolithina) and of the specific name *scalaris* Linnaeus, 1768, as published in the combination  
*Graptolithus scalaris*



LONDON :

Printed by Order of the International Trust for  
Zoological Nomenclature  
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological  
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office  
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7  
1954

Three Shillings and Ninepence

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 197

### A. The Officers of the Commission

- President* : Dr. Karl Jordan, Ph.D., F.R.S. (*British Museum (Natural History) Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*).  
*Vice-President* : Dr. James L. Peters (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*).  
*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*London, England*).

### B. The Members of the Commission

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Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary to the Commission*).  
Dr. Karl JORDAN (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*) (*President of the Commission*).  
Dr. Th. MORTENSEN (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*).  
Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*).

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Dr. James L. PETERS (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (*Vice-President of the Commission*).  
Dr. Harold E. VOKES (*United States Geological Survey, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*).

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Dr. Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Polish Zoological Museum, Warsaw, Poland*).  
Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.*).

### C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

- Professor Enrique BELTRÁN (*Instituto Mexicano de Recursos Naturales Renovables A.C., Mexico City, Mexico*).  
Dr. Edward HINDLE (*Zoological Society of London, London, England*).  
Dr. Arturo Ricardo JORGE (*Museu Bocage, Lisbon, Portugal*).  
Professor Harold KIRBY (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).  
Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Kgl. Veterinær- og Landbohøjskole, Zoologisk Laboratorium, Copenhagen, Denmark*).  
Professor Kamel MANSOUR (*King Fouad University, Cairo, Egypt*).  
Professor Z. P. METCALF (*North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, University of North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.*).  
Mr. N. D. RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London, England*).  
Professor Ragnar SPÆRCK (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*).  
Professor Victor van STRAELEN (*Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium*).  
Professor Robert L. USINGER (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).

## OPINION 197

**SUPPRESSION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE  
GENERIC NAME "GRAPTOLITHUS" LINNAEUS,  
1768 (CLASS GRAPTOLITHINA) AND OF THE  
SPECIFIC NAME "SCALARIS" LINNAEUS,  
1768, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION  
"GRAPTOLITHUS SCALARIS"**

**RULING :—**(1) The following names are hereby suppressed under the Plenary Powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—(a) the generic name *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768 (Class Graptolithina), and (b) the specific name *scalaris* Linnaeus, 1768, as published in the combination *Graptolithus scalaris*. (2) The name *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768, suppressed under (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 1. (3) The specific name *scalaris* Linnaeus, 1768, as published in the combination *Graptolithus scalaris*, suppressed under (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 1.

### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Under cover of a letter dated 3rd July 1930, Dr. O. M. B. Bulman, Sc.D., F.R.S., then of the *Imperial College of Science and Technology (Royal School of Mines), South Kensington, London, S.W.7*, submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature a memorandum containing several requests for the use of the Plenary Powers in relation to the names of Graptolites. One of the applications so submitted contained a request for the suppression of the generic name *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768.

2. This application, as finally settled, was as follows :—

PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF THE NAME *GRAPTOLITHUS*  
LINNAEUS, 1768 (CLASS GRAPTOLITHINA, ORDER  
GRAPTOLOIDEA<sup>1</sup>)

By O. M. B. BULMAN, Sc.D., F.R.S.

(University Lecturer in Palaeozoology, Cambridge University)

(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.)11)

The name *Graptolithus* was applied by Linnaeus in 1735 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 1) : [5]) and in 1768 (*ibid.* (ed. 12) 3 : 173) to what he regarded as inorganic markings (such as dendritic incrustations and "ruin-marble") simulating fossils, and when, in 1768, he included *Graptolithus sagittarius* and *G. scalaris*, these were considered to be of inorganic nature. The former species is possibly a fossil plant, and the latter probably a graptolite.

*Graptolithus scalaris* Linnaeus, 1768, was believed by Wahlenberg (1821, *Nov. Act. Soc. reg. Sci.*, Upsala 8 : 92) to be a Cephalopod, and was quoted under the generic title of *Orthoceratites* (*Orthoceratites* Gesner, 1758, *Tract. phys. Petrif.* : 42). Wahlenberg was thus the first to recognise its organic character.

The name *Priodon* was proposed, probably to include both Linnaeus' species, by Nilsson (MS., see Hisinger, 1831, *Esquisse Tabl. Petrif. sued.* (ed. 2) : 29). This name, being preoccupied by *Priodon* Cuvier, 1829, *Règn. anim.* (ed. 2) 2 : 225,<sup>2</sup> was later modified to *Prionotus* Nilsson (MS., see Hisinger, 1837, *Lethaea suec.* : 113), which, however, was also preoccupied (by *Prionotus* Lacépède, 1802, *Hist. nat. Poiss.* 3 : 336). *Prionotus* Nilsson MS. seems to have been regarded as a synonym of *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, *Lethaea geogn.* 1(1) : 55 by Bronn (*ibid.* : 56), but both *Priodon* and *Prionotus* are more properly synonyms of *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768, since they were employed by Hisinger to include *G. scalaris* Linnaeus and *G. sagittarius* Linnaeus. It is not clear why they were proposed, and they were never in general use ; for further discussion of the question, see Elles and Wood, 1902,

<sup>1</sup> The graptolites in the past have commonly been placed in the Class Hydrozoa of the Phylum Coelenterata. The systematic position of the group is, however, obscure and it has here been thought better, while provisionally retaining the graptolites in the Phylum Coelenterata, to treat this group as constituting a separate Class, Graptolithina. (int'd) F. H. 31st January 1945.

<sup>2</sup> Cuvier's manuscript name *Priodon* was first published by Quoy & Gaimard, 1824, in Freycinet, *Voy. "Uranie" et "Phys."* (Zool.) 1 : 377. In addition, the name *Priodon* Berthold, 1827, Latreille's *Fam. Thierr.* : 57, the name of a genus in the Class Mammalia, has priority over *Priodon* (Nilsson MS.) Hisinger, 1831.

*Monogr. Brit. Grapt.* (2) : vii, and Tullberg, 1882, *Bihang K. svensk. Vet.-Acad. Handl.* 6 (No. 13) : 7.

*Graptolithus scalaris* Linnaeus was selected by Beck (1839), in Murchison, *Silur. Syst.* 2 : 696) as the type of the genus *Graptolithus*. Barrande (1850, *Grapt. Bohême* : 34) considered it identical with *G. sagittarius* Linnaeus, but this was denied by Hall (1868, 20th *Ann. Rep. N.Y. State Cab. nat. Hist.* : 228) who adhered to *G. scalaris* Linnaeus as the type.

It may probably be accepted that *Graptolithus scalaris* Linnaeus, 1768, was a real graptolite, and this was definitely selected as the type by Beck, but there is considerable uncertainty about the form, and *G. scalaris* Linnaeus is included only with a note of interrogation among the synonyms of *Climacograptus scalaris* (His.) by Elles and Wood (1906), *Monogr. Brit. Grapt.* (5) : 184). In view of the doubtful nature of the genolectotype and the clearly expressed intention of Linnaeus that the name was to denote inorganic objects, it is suggested that its use as a generic name be officially abandoned and that *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768, be placed on the list of obsolete generic names.

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. The memorandum furnished by Dr. Bulman in 1930 was communicated in December 1931 to the members of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the then Secretary (the late Dr. C. W. Stiles) in Circular Letter No. 221. This action led to the submission of the four comments on this case set out in the immediately following paragraphs.

4. *Comment by Lt. Col. J. Stephenson* : The following comment was furnished in a letter dated 5th March 1932 by Lt. Col. J. Stephenson, a Member of the International Commission :—

The authority to whom I should naturally have submitted the cases detailed in your Circular Letter 221 (Subject : Suspension, *Monograptus*, *Retiolites*, *Graptolithus*) is Dr. Bulman himself, who works within a stone's throw of this Museum [British Museum (Natural History)]. As he raises the cases, we may take it that we know his answer beforehand.

Captain A. K. Totton, the Assistant Keeper here in the Museum in charge of Coelenterata, informs me that he would himself have



no hesitation in taking Dr. Bulman's opinion ; and, having been through the cases myself as they are presented in your letter, I beg to give my own informal recommendation in the same sense also.

5. *Comment by Dr. F. A. Bather* : In a letter to Dr. Stiles, dated 21st March 1932, the late Dr. F. A. Bather (*Keeper, Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History)*) wrote : " I entirely agree with Bulman's proposals ".

6. *Comment by Dr. Gertrude L. Elles* : In a letter, dated 25th February 1932 (communicated by Dr. Bather), Dr. Gertrude L. Elles (*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University*) wrote :—

I am entirely in sympathy with Bulman's proposals. . . The term *Graptolithus* has for so long been regarded by all workers on the Graptolites as a mere waste-paper basket term that the sooner it disappears into oblivion the better !

7. *Comment by Dr. Karl Jordan* : In a letter dated 22nd May 1932, Dr. Karl Jordan (*Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.*) wrote : "*Graptolithus* should be suppressed altogether as a name in zoology ".

8. The present case was placed on the Agenda for the Session of the International Commission then about to be held at Lisbon in Circular Letter 309, issued to the Members of the Commission in March 1935. Owing to the absence through ill-health of the Secretary (Dr. Stiles) and the fact that in consequence the papers relating to this case were not available in Lisbon, it was not possible for the International Commission to deal with this case on that occasion.

9. In 1938 the documents relating to this and other current cases were transferred to the care of Mr. Francis Hemming, who in October 1936 had been elected Secretary to the Commission on the retirement of Dr. Stiles. On receipt, the documents relating to this case were given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)11. It had not been found possible to make any further progress with this case when in September 1939 the records of the Commission were evacuated from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat

in London was re-opened in 1942 and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. After an exchange of correspondence between the Secretary and Dr. Bulman the terms of the present application were finally settled on 24th August 1944. This application was sent to the printer in September 1944, but, owing to paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes it was not until 26th June 1946 that this application was actually published (Bulman, 1946, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 163—164). The publication of this application in the *Bulletin* elicited the comments set out in the three immediately following paragraphs.

**10. Comment by Dr. Th. Mortensen :** In a letter dated 20th April 1947, the late Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen*) wrote as follows :—

*Graptolithus*. Though—perhaps—not be used as a generic name, *Graptolithus* ought, I think, to be preserved as a more general term, since it would be rather paradoxical to have an Order Graptolithoidea, if we have not a name *Graptolithus*.

**11. Comment by Dr. Charles E. Decker :** On 13th June 1947, Dr. J. Brookes Knight (*Research Associate in Paleontology, United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) at that time Chairman of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America, wrote : “As Chairman, I called these propositions to the attention of Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann and Dr. Charles E. Decker, the two recognized American authorities on the Graptolites. I enclose the originals of their replies”. The comment by Dr. Decker (*University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, U.S.A.*) on the present case was given in a letter dated 2nd August 1946, the relevant portion of which reads as follows : “In response to your enquiry I would say that the name *Graptolithus* should be suppressed, as definite generic terms have been given to all forms to which it was formerly applied”.

12. *Comment by Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann*: In a letter dated 29th November 1946, Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann (*Albany, N.Y., U.S.A.*) wrote :—" In answer to your question I may say that I fully agree with the proposed suppression of the name *Graptolithus* . . . ".

13. On 14th September 1947 a notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objections to the action proposed.

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

14. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 17.30 hours. The following is an extract from the portion of the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission, setting out the decision reached by it in regard to this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 21) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 377) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) to use their plenary powers to suppress for purposes of Article 25 but not for those of Article 34 or, as the case might be, Article 35 :—
  - (a) the generic name *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768 (Class Graptolithina) ;
  - (b) the trivial name *scalaris* Linnaeus, 1768 (as published in the binominal combination *Graptolithus scalaris*) ;



- (2) to place the name *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768 on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* and the trivial name *scalaris* Linnaeus, 1768 (as originally published in the binominal combination *Graptolithus scalaris*) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) and (2) above.

15. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

*Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 12) 3 : 173  
*scalaris*, *Graptolithus*, Linnaeus, 1768, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 12) 3 : 174

16. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 106).

17. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

18. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

19. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

20. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

21. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* One Hundred and Ninety-Seven (197) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Fourteenth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING